



Protecting children.
Strengthening families.

June 17, 2005

The Honorable James Talent
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Talent:

On behalf of Kids Hope United (KHU), a child and family welfare services provider, I am writing in support of your legislation, the Combat Meth Act of 2005 (S. 103). This important legislation will assist in the prevention, detection, and treatment of methamphetamine (meth) users and their families by restricting access to substances commonly used in the manufacturing of meth, and by allocating critical resources to law enforcement agencies and social welfare organizations.

KHU has been providing services that celebrate and protect children and families for more than a century. Founded as Chicago Baptist Orphanage in 1895 and Hudelson Baptist Children's Home in 1903, the organization now operates as a federated partnership of four agencies annually serving 15,000 children and families across four states. Our experience, history and work in multiple states has provided KHU with a unique perspective regarding the challenges and opportunities that confront our nation's child welfare system.

KHU's "Family Preservation Services to Methamphetamine Involved Families" program provides community-based services to children and families identified by authorities as being at risk of out-of-home placement due to meth abuse. Through intensive involvement with KHU, case workers and the affected children receive necessary medical and mental health services, and their parents are linked and transported to drug treatment services. Our programs have achieved a high success rate with 85% of parents successfully completing drug treatment, as evidenced by random testing, and 95% of families receiving no further indicated reports of child abuse and neglect related to drug use within six months of successful program discharge.

We look forward to working with you to enact S. 103 and to combat meth abuse, while assisting families who are devastated by this powerful addiction. Please do not hesitate to contact me (312/922-6733, ext. 6) or Jim Twadell, our Legislative Representative (202/230-5130) if you would like to explore opportunities to collaborate on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin R. Sinnott".

Martin R. Sinnott
President/CEO, Kids Hope United

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